

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1-14 and 16-21 are allowed. Claims 15 and 22-26 are rejected. Claims 15 and 22-26 have been cancelled.

The Applicants sincerely thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-14 and 16-21. The rejected claims have been cancelled. Therefore, with the entry of this amendment, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-14 and 16-21 be allowed.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Alford et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,613,201).

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the rejection and in the interest of furthering prosecution on the merits, the Applicants are cancelling claims 22-26, thereby rendering the present rejection moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Alford et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,613,201) in view of Sigler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,717,830).

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the rejection and in the interest of furthering prosecution on the merits, the Applicants are cancelling claim 15, thereby rendering the present rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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